Nippon Times

No. 16,520 (THE 20th YEAR of SHOWA) TOKYO, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1945 第三種郵便物認可 昭和十五年十二月二十七日 Price 25 Sen

EAST PRUSSIAN SECTOR LOCALE OF NEW BATTLE

Soviet Forces Active in Gdynia —Brief Lull Marks West Front Fighting

Domei

BERLIN, March 14.—The impetus of the Soviet attacks during the past 24 hours has not been concentrated on the western sectors of the Eastern Front, but was directed at the German strongholds grimly resisting in the east of the most advanced front salient. The main event was the newly-flared up battle in East Prussia. Since early morning on Tuesday following several hours of artillery preparation seven Soviet armies and numerous tank units are again attacking both sides of Zinten in the direction of Heiligenbeil and south of Koenigsberg. Infiltrations achieved by the Soviets during the first onrush were, however checked or narrowed by the troops of Colonel General Rendulic.

Continuation of the German front was maintained. The attackers lost 304 tanks in the first onrush. Fighting in that region is still continuing. Gdynia was once more the theater of violent attacks. The Soviets, however, were unable to break up or press back the German lines of resistance. The Soviets lost 35 tanks during their attacks on the Danzig area. Units of the German navy joined the fighting for Danzig supporting the German, counter-drives from the sea. Concentrated attacks on the old German fortress of Kolberg were equally repulsed by the defenders supported by the naval units.

Violent Soviet attacks continued also during the night at the bridgehead on the east bank of Dievenow.

Whereas fighting for isolated German resistance positions in the east flared up to a new violence, relative calm prevailed on the remaining sectors. On the Oder front the Soviet attacks were only of local importance. South of Kuestrin in the suburb of Kietz the German artillery dispersed several Soviet troop concentrations and destroyed an extremely important Oder bridge by eight direct hits. Also on the Neisse front except for local skirmishes near Muskau and Glogau, no actions worth mentioning occurred.

In Slovakia the Soviet pressure on Altsohl and north Schemnitz was maintained. Having received reinforcements and following heavy artillery preparation the Soviets achieved local infiltrations, penetrating into the eastern section of Altsohl where they were checked by the German defenders.

The Soviets have lost a total of 540,000 men on the fronts in East Prussia and West Prussia since January 14. In West Prussia alone the Soviets lost 265,000 men in the last two months. The Soviet war material losses on some fronts in the last two months likewise were enormous. In West Prussia the Soviets lost 2,046 tanks in the last two months, according to the German official war communique, and in East Prussia 1,700 tanks. In West Prussia alone the Soviets lost no fewer than 2,100 guns, and large numbers of grenade-throwers and machine-guns.

West Front Sees Lull

Domei

BERLIN, March 14.—"Lull in the west," with that slogan the official report of the German situation characterises the course of the fighting on the Rhine during the past 24 hours. It is, however, believed that if fighting on the central Rhine, on the Moselle and on the Ruhr for the present is concentrated only on limited areas, new battles will soon flare up on the other now quiet sectors. Moreover, the German quarters are paying attention to the concentrations of the 1st Canadian and 2nd British armies on the lower Rhine sector from which both sides for days reported only artillery activity and concentrations.

It almost appears that the German quarters in view of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's preparations in the north of the Western Front are considering the fighting near Remagen on the Moselle and the Saar as less decisive with regard to the forthcoming great field battles. In fact fighting in these sectors is characterized by the stiffening German resistance and counterattacks. Only a ground gain of a few hundred meters was reported by the allies from the Honnef bridgehead where at present heavy fighting is in progress for the woods and localities and where the Germans were able to eliminate several American infiltrations in counterthrusts on Tuesday night.

It is remarkable that General Patton has shifted his positions on the Moselle whose spearheads failed to cross the river valley between Kochem and Bernkastel so that other units of the 3rd American army are now operating from the Ruhr River south of Trier probably with a view to clear the southern bank of the Moselle by flanking out. On the other hand, an opinion was voiced that the operations of General Patton on the Ruhr might lead to a connection with the Saar sector and might belong to a greater operative plan of the allies to put pincers on the German front between the Palatinate and the Saar wherein, however, the 7th American army would have a difficult task of conquering the strong German west fortifications from the south.

Reich Air Force Active During Winter Months, Destroying 1,595 Tanks

Domei

BERLIN, March 14.—Despite unfavorable weather conditions the German air force destroyed during the two months of winter battle on the Eastern Front 1,595 tanks, 966 guns and more than 11,500 mostly motorized vehicles. In addition 571 tanks, 354 guns and more than 3,000 vehicles were heavily damaged. The Russians lost 1,029 planes in air fights by anti-aircraft guns or destruction on the ground.

Fuehrer's Headquarters

March 14

Against our Drave bridgehead southeast of Siklos, the enemy after the serious losses which he sustained on March 12 continued his attacks with weak forces only. Also the Soviet and Bulgarian attacks against the bridgehead southwest of Siklos failed as on the previous days.

Between Lake Balaton and the Danube, our combat groups broke additional strongly fortified strong points out of the enemy front, advanced despite immensely difficult terrain in several sectors, and repulsed numerous tank-supported Soviet counterattacks.

In central Slovakia, our grenadiers east of the upper Gran in grim fighting lasting for weeks prevented a Soviet breakthrough but the enemy penetrated Altsohl after sustaining great losses.

On both sides of Schwarzwasser the Soviets, supported by numerous tanks, continued their breakthrough attempts without any success. Our sweeping counterattacks regained the lost territory southwest of the town and smashed the enemy assault troops which were in the act of deployment in the northern section of the battle area. So far 65 Soviet tanks were destroyed.

At the Oder front near Lebus, weak Soviet attack broke down, before our artillery with heavy losses to the enemy. Also at the defensive ring of Stettin weak enemy thrusts were smashed in front of our positions and our combat groups reconquered lost strong points and captured prisoners while in the Drievenow bridgehead the Soviets in numerous attacks, strongly supported by artillery, made only slight penetrations. Kolberg is being maintained in grim fighting against numerically superior enemy forces. At the Gotenhafen and Danzig front our divisions in continuous grim fighting inflicted high losses on the enemy and prevented the splitting up of the front. Heavy and light naval forces repeatedly and effectively intervened in the defensive fighting along the West Prussian shore.

In Prussia the enemy with seven rifle armies and numerous tank formations launched a new mass attack against our southeastern front. At the focal points of the battle northwest of Lichtenfeld and at Zinten as well as east of Brandenburg our units under Colonel General Rendulic, are again engaged in fierce fighting and yesterday they destroyed 104 enemy tanks.

In Courland the force of the Soviet onslaughts as a result of both the high losses and the impending thaw decreased also in the Frauenburg area and numerous individual enemy attacks were broken up by our troops.

In the west before our front on the lower Rhine, lively enemy movements continue partly supported by artificial smoke-screen and the enemy heavily hit by the salvoes of our artillery. At Remagen after fierce fighting in villages and forests the American divisions are continuously attacking with strong forces and they were able to press our positions slightly back but were then checked by our defensive fire or by counterattacks. The Luftwaffe effectively intervened in the fighting on the ground.

On the lower Moselle our forces are bitterly fighting against the American 3rd Army while on the Ruwer River the enemy resumed his attacks with stronger forces. On both sides of the Osburg forest the enemy established local bridgeheads but he was repulsed southeast of Saarburg while the enemy thrusts at Saarlautern and in the lower Vosges failed. After strong artillery preparation the enemy succeeded temporarily to penetrate the northern section of the town of Hagenau but was thrown out again yesterday afternoon.

In the course of mopping up operations in the Dalmatian coastal area southwest of Bihac, German-Croat combat groups despite difficult weather and terrain conditions threw the enemy out of several strong points, inflicted heavy losses on him and captured or destroyed numerous guns, heavy arms and supply depots.

In yesterday's bombing raids by the Americans on Reich territory Regensburg was particularly hit while as a result of raids by British terror bombers serious damage was partly caused at Wuppertal, Gelsenkirchen and Recklinghausen. At night British fighter bombers again dropped bombs on the Reich capital.

Our retaliation fire on London continues incessantly. Also the enemy supply base of Antwerp is continuously under our heavy long range fire.

Our submarines have again sunk eight vessels totaling 48,200 tons from a supply convoy plying between England and France.

CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN RUMANIA IS EXPLAINED

Inability of Radescu Regime to Maintain Order Cause. Eden Tells Commons

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, March 14.—Replying to questions in the House of Commons today, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden explained the circumstances behind the change of government in Rumania, according to a London dispatch.

Eden said that the Soviet Government had informed Britain that the Rumanian Government under Premier General Nicolai Radescu had not been able to keep order in what was the back area of the Red Army. It was found necessary, therefore, that the new coalition government under Deputy Premier Petre Groza should be restored.

After the change of governments, Premier Radescu sought sanctuary with the British political representative in Rumania because he feared for his life from his political opponents. As the British Government had no evidence that Radescu had been involved in any activity against the anti-Axis, the British political representative in Bucharest felt authorized in granting sanctuary.

Eden also revealed that communications were now passing among the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain on the present situation in Rumania. "I understand that a very strict censorship is being enforced by the Soviet Government," Eden said, "on the grounds that the lines of communications of the Red Armies fighting in Hungary run through Rumania, making it necessary to take exceptional measures for security.

The Foreign Secretary told several questioners that when the German armies left Rumania they had no doubt arranged to keep in contact with certain elements so as to stir up trouble on the lines of communications. When asked if the anti-Axis decided to grant Rumania the status of a co-belligerent like Italy, Eden replied, "No, sir."

LEND-LEASE ACT EXTENDED

Passed by U.S. Lower House; Stresses For War Use Only

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, March 14.—The U.S. House of Representatives today passed by an overwhelming vote, 354 to 28, to continue the Lend-Lease Act for another year and it has now been referred to the Senate for consideration, according to a Washington report.

The Lend-Lease Act, however, was voted for war use only, there being a ban against using it in any postwar relief, reconstruction or rehabilitation problems.

However, the administration agreed to an amendment to ease fears expressed by Republican members. This amendment authorizes the President to enter into any agreement with a foreign Government for postwar relief, postwar rehabilitation or postwar reconstruction. Sections were made for items specifically intended for defense or combat.

Meanwhile, Leo Crowley, Director of the U.S. Foreign Economic Administration, revealed today that the United States has shipped almost $15,770,000 worth of Lend-Lease goods to the Soviet Union since 1941. He also disclosed that a new shipping route through the Black Sea has been opened to permit American ships to travel with Lend-Lease goods.

TO PROBE MANDATES ISSUE

U.S. to Back International Trusteeship in Area at S.F. Meet

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, March 14.—The question of future mandates and other dependencies throughout the world is likely to be discussed at the coming United Nations World Security Conference in San Francisco on April 25, says a Washington report. It adds that the American delegation strongly favors the establishment of an international trusteeship in the mandates area.

Meanwhile, President Roosevelt said that the San Francisco meeting will probably follow the pattern of the Pan-American Foreign Ministers' Conference recently held in Mexico City. In that event, he said that the delegates will be assisted by an advisory commission composed of experts in the business, labor and other fields.

Zurich Consulate Set

Domei

ZURICH, March 13.—A Japanese Consulate General was established here yesterday and Jotaro Kanda, at present Embassy Counselor in Sweden, has been appointed as the first consul general.

President Laurel's Resolve Unshaken On Struggle for East Asia's Liberation

By I. IWAMOTO
Of the Military Press Corps

PHILIPPINE BASE, March 14.—Interviewing Jose P. Laurel, President of the Republic of the Philippines, at his temporary headquarters, this correspondent found him in excellent health and unshakable in his conviction that every ounce of East Asian strength must be concentrated in the liberation of the area, the creation of an Asia for the Asiatics, and the construction of a region of common prosperity and well-being.

Before the entrance of the White-walled building in the mountains which is the President's temporary official residence and office flew the red, blue and white flag of the Republic. The correspondent entered and after a short wait in a small reception hall, the President appeared. He was wearing a striped shirt open at the neck and was smoking a cigar. Smiling, he said, "I am glad you came."

The correspondent told him that he had come, desiring to inform the people of Greater East Asia how the President was and what he was doing. The President thanked the correspondent and pointed out, "As you see, I am fine. I want you to tell them first of all that Laurel is in healthy existence in the Philippines." The President, who greeted his 54th birthday on March 9, looked slightly more than his age but his color was better than during his Manila days.

Asked how he felt at this time, President Laurel said that it was more than two months since he had left Manila and that during that time the situation in the Philippines had undergone a great change. "Our political activities have been limited," he declared, "and various difficult obstacles have arisen. But such obstacles are natural in a war and I, as President, will not be beaten by hardhips of this degree."

Although the capital has been removed from Manila, the youthful Republic of the Philippines lives, the President emphasized. "I agree from my heart with the way of thinking as advocated by the Japanese of an Asia for the Asiatics, the liberation of East Asia and the construction of the Co-Prosperity Sphere. I am firm in my conviction that this is the only way for the Filipinos to advance."

Declaring that it was his desire to compile into a pamphlet his opinions and feelings in respect to these fundamental conceptions, President Laurel said, "The conception of a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere is indeed great and noble, and is absolutely just. This conception is one which the Japanese, the Filipinos, and the peoples of all East Asia must hold high above them and concentrate all their power for its attainment, firmly believing in it. This is their great task."

Perhaps this task may not be fully completed by this war alone, the President remarked, but the peoples of East Asia must never cease their pursuit of this great ideal. "Even if we die, are there not millions and millions of youths to follow us? It is the youth of Greater East Asia who will shoulder the next era, who will keep this torch aflame and carry it forward. I have started writing my small work because of my desire to have these people read and learn this idea."

Questioned as to his daily routine, the President disclosed that he ate two meals a day. "The Japanese are very kind and urge many things upon me, but I tell them to let the soldiers on the front have it if there is any surplus. We are fighting too! I, my cabinet ministers and officials, too, dig trenches. I also work in the garden to raise vegetables. Yesterday I harvested 100 tomatoes," he said.

FRANCE, BRITAIN TO SIGN NEW FINANCIAL ACCORD

Agreement to Cover Reciprocal Credits, Holdings of French Nationals in U.K.

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, March 13.—Following the visit of Rene Pleven, French Finance Minister, to London, a new Franco-British financial agreement covering, amongst other things, the holdings of French nationals in Britain, will shortly be signed, according to the Paris correspondent of the Financial Times. The agreement will be based on the following three points:

1) Reciprocal credits, which as far as France is concerned will enable her to meet the cost of imports from Britain without gold transfer.

2) Bringing up to date all previous financial Franco-British agreements, particularly the agreement signed at the beginning of the war by Paul Reynaud.

3) Application of rigorous measures to control the holdings of French nationals abroad.

Pleven was advised by Sir John Anderson, British Chancellor of the Exchequer, that arrangements have been concluded by which the British Government would make available to the French Government all information on the holdings of French nationals. On the other hand, the French Government will supply to the British authorities information concerning the property of British nationals in France.

According to the Times, London, this latter news was received with great misgivings in the city. The proposed exchange is to take place when the arrangements are completed for the reinstatement of property interests which were interrupted by the war.

The holdings of French nationals in New York are believed to be a good deal larger than those in Britain, and it is therefore reasonable to expect, states the Times, that similar action will be taken by the American authorities. It would aggravate the misgivings of the city, it continues, if the British Government elected to act without the assurance of other countries to follow suit.

Though the proposed exchange will be on an inter-governmental basis, it will naturally infringe on the private character of the relationship between banker and client. It is said that the step is being taken to "circumvent the machinations of the enemy" and also to make available "the controlling of foreign assets and ensuring that they will be used in the best interests" of the country of origin whatever were the intentions of the owners in the first place in investing their assets abroad.

In conclusion, the Times states that Sir John Anderson can hardly leave the matter where it is in face of the concern over the proposed exchange and the future of London as an international monetary center.

YANK PRESS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHIANG-RED UNITY

Both Factions Urged to Place Nation's Welfare Before Party Considerations

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, March 14.—The press in America has begun to express doubts regarding Chiang Kai-shek's announcement that a National Assembly would be convoked in November, in which not only the Kuomintang, but all other political parties in Chungking controlled China, the Chinese Communist Party included, would be represented.

"It is not all together clear," says the Washington Post, "whether General Chiang Kai-shek's announcement is a real step toward democracy in China or merely a maneuver to put the Chinese Communists on the spot."

The journal continues; "For some time, not merely the Communists, but other Chinese elements as well have been demanding the end of the so-called tutelage during which China has been ruled by the Kuomintang. They want to see a truly democratic regime created. Ostensibly, and it may be an actuality, Chiang has now responded to this demand.

"The National Assembly would include representatives of all other parties, besides the Kuomintang, and its task would be to draw up a constitution for China. However, Chiang is making, as a condition for summoning the Assembly, acceptance by the Chinese Communists of control over their armed forces and their local administration by the National Army and Government, and he has indicated that their refusal to fall into line might make him modify his plans for a National Assembly.

"Since the previous offers made by Chungking, to give the Communists places in the National Government in return for the abandonment of their attempt to maintain a separate government, have been rejected, it is difficult at first glance to see how the Chinese Communists will be attracted to this proposal. Yet the needed unity in China to drive out the Japanese invaders is so imperious that continued controversy would have serious effects. Concessions must be made by both sides. The concessions which Chiang appears now ready to make may not be enough from Yenan's point of view. Yet they do appear to provide at least a basis of discussion."

Meanwhile the New York Herald Tribune says:

"The statement in which General Chiang Kai-shek announced that a National Assembly would be convoked in China in November, indicated by its tone that he still had strong hopes of coming to an agreement with the Chinese Communists. It also made it clear that the General saw the vital importance of unity in China.

"He complained, however, that the Chinese Communists raise their demands whenever an agreement seems possible. And there have been indications from other sources that this is a fact and the contention might be made that the Chinese Communists are at fault in prolonging the controversy.

"It would be a convenient and simply understood explanation, but the truth is not in it. The matter is much more complicated. Even the reluctance of the Communists to incorporate their army in the National Army has considerable justification. It is extremely difficult for them in view of the events of recent Chinese history to accept assurances that their party and its leaders will be safe without a private army for protection. Because of the existence of this distrust, and for other similar reasons, such as the fear in Chungking of the Communists boring from within, there is no easy road to settlement of Chungking's political problems. It can be settled only if negotiators use the utmost skill, and only if the leaders of both factions are willing to place a higher value on the welfare of their country than they do on party considerations in China's internal power politics."

SPECIAL HONORS GRANTED TO ACE B-29 DESTROYER

Late Lieutenant Endo Given Two-Rank Promotion, Navy Ministry Announces

A two-rank promotion and a special award of honors have been granted to Lieutenant Sachio Endo, ace B-29 destroyer, who fell in action on January 14, in interceptive operations against a B-29 force over the sea south of the Atsumi Peninsula, it was announced by the Navy Ministry under today's date. During his fighting career against the B-29's, the Lieutenant had shot down or damaged 16 of the monster bombers.

Previous to becoming a squad commander of the XX Naval Air Force defending Japan in March last year, the Lieutenant had served with distinction from January, 1943, in various air operations in the Solomons. For his distinguished services, he had been cited by His Imperial Highness General Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni, Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Headquarters, on January 26. The citation had been proclaimed to all the fighting forces.

The heroic Naval ace was a fiery and quick-actioned fighter, but also possessed a love for detailed research. He studied the Gekko fighter and brought it into the realm of actuality, and always fought at the head of his men in this plane. His greatest one-day score was attained on August 20, last year, when he single-handedly shot down three B-29's and damaged two others.

Besides being specially promoted to the rank of Commander, the giant-killer was granted the Third Class Order of the Golden Kite and the Fourth Class Order of the Rising Sun.

LATE NAVY HERO HONORED

Special honors have been conferred upon Commander Zenjiro Miyano, who had already been granted a two-rank promotion for distinguished services rendered during his career, it was announced by the Navy Ministry under today's date.

During his distinguished fighting career, which took him to the Philippines, Dutch East Indies, Aleutians and Solomons, the Commander's fighter forces shot down 228 planes and damaged 76 others. The Commander fell in action in combat against about 100 enemy fighters when his force conducted a raid on enemy vessels in the Lunga anchorage in the Solomons on June 16, 1943. He had been granted a citation for his distinguished services by the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet on November 20, last year.

By the special conferment of honors, the Commander was granted the Third Class Order of the Golden Kite and the Fourth Class Order of the Rising Sun.

State Will Disperse Non-Essential Folk From Major Cities

In order to strengthen the defense setup of the principal cities, the Government decided at an emergency Cabinet meeting on Thursday to effect a swift and complete dispersal of those remaining in the Tokyo-Yokohama, Osaka-Kobe and Nagoya areas. Those to remain in the principal cities will be limited to necessary organs and persons, according to a Board of Information announcement, and the others will be dispersed to the provinces. Each city and prefecture will set up plans and establish a structure to disperse and to receive the evacuees. The Government will take special measures to store the property to be left behind by the evacuees and will also take the necessary steps to facilitate the transport of the people leaving the principal cities.

JAPANESE AIR UNITS SINK 2 ENEMY TORPEDO BOATS

Enemy Forces Landing in Zamboanga Area Smashed In Heavy Counterattack

Domei

PHILIPPINE BASE, March 14.—Japanese Air Units sank two enemy torpedo boats yesterday evening in Bohol Strait during furious strafing action.

U.S. Landing Forces Smashed

Domei

PHILIPPINE BASE, March 14.—Enemy surface crafts comprising more than 10 warships began to bombard the eastern sector of Zamboanga on the afternoon of March 12, while landing forces penetrated the vicinity of the airfield, storming the Japanese front position on the afternoon of the same day. However, furiously counterattacking the enemy, the Japanese Landing Party in unison with the Army Forces wiped out the enemy consisting of more than 100 soldiers.

In the course of the battle in the Zamboanga area, Warrant Officer Matsui accompanied by a few of his subordinates, shock-attacked the invaders and cut off their retreat, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. Warrant Officer Nagata of the Ground Crew together with some of his men dashed into the enemy midst with fixed bayonets and after killing some of the enemy and blasting the guns, returned to the Japanese position. War results obtained in the Zamboanga area on March 12, include more than 10 enemy tanks destroyed and some 800 soldiers killed.

In spite of the tremendous losses, the enemy frantically attempted to bring up some reinforcements on March 13, while one enemy unit schemed to steal into one corner of the Japanese position. Fully aware of the enemy move, the Japanese maneuvered to draw the enemy as near as possible and opened up a terrific barrage, thus completely smashing the invaders.

Invaders Heavily Hit

Domei

PHILIPPINE FRONT, March 13.—Enemy forces which landed on Zamboanga assembled ammunition and other materials in the vicinity of the airfield and the pier under the protection of bombardments from ship-guns and bombing attacks and assailed the Japanese position on the northern extremity of the airdrome in the suburbs of Zamboanga, with tank units in the lead. Furiously counterattacking the invading forces, the Japanese pounded the enemy, damaging many of the tanks and setting ablaze supply dumps, thus throwing the enemy into extreme confusion.

By carrying out shock attacks during night, the Japanese killed or wounded some 300 enemy soldiers up to March 11.

Slav Parley at Sofia

A Slav Conference was held from March 5 to 7 at Sofia with representatives from the Soviet Union, Ukraine, White Russia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia (with Serbia, Slovania, Croatia and Montenegro sending 150 representatives) and Macedonia, it is reported.

Blamey, MacArthur Confer

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, March 14.—General Sir Thomas Blamey, Commander of the Australian Army in the Southwest Pacific, is in Luzon conferring with General Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the Anti-Axis Forces, according to a London report.

YIOJIMA GARRISON UNITS BATTLING WITH TENACITY

Holding Vital Positions, Japanese Continue to Mow Down Advancing Enemy

With the unending and stubborn American assaults concentrated along the entire front line, fighting on Yiojima has become more intensified day by day. Firmly holding the strategic points in and around Hyoryuboku, North Village, Tenzan, Higashiyama and Tamanayama, Japanese Garrison Forces are continuously engaged in bitter battles with rifles and hand grenades.

Trying to secure a position on Tenzan, the invaders supported by tanks and flame throwers repeatedly directed their stubborn attacks all through March 13 when severe hand-to-hand battles were fought.

In shock tactics, Sergeant Major Motonari Kikuyama, who was recently promoted to the rank of Special Sergeant Major in recognition of his great exploits on Yiojima, dashed into a group of enemy troops and personally operated a rifle and single-handedly mowed down more than 50 of the Americans though he was seriously wounded.

Intense Battles Raging

Domei

CENTRAL PACIFIC FRONT, March 15. — Enemy artillery in northern Yiojima continued active all day on March 13 and a fleet of enemy transports was seen approaching the north end of the island.

From the afternoon of the same day fighting was intensified on all fronts by the enemy with embittered combats taking place at various places.

In the northern sector a powerful enemy force accompanied by over ten tanks used flame throwers in their attacks while in the Tenzan area the enemy made onslaughts with tanks but were repulsed by the concentrated firing of the Japanese Units.

Chichijima Raiders Hit

Domei

CENTRAL PACIFIC BASE, March 14.—From the afternoon of March 12 to dawn of the following morning, about 20 large enemy planes persistently attacked Chichijima of the Ogasawara group of islands. However, the Japanese Units succeeded in repulsing them after damaging several of the raiders.

B-24's Raid Taiwan

Domei

TAIHOKU, March 14.—With B-24's as their mainstay about 70 Philippine-based bombers and fighters raided various parts of Taiwan from about 11 a.m. yesterday and after dropping bombs fled to the south about 2 p.m. Damage suffered was negligible.

AZAD HIND DETERMINED

Foreign Minister Chatterji Assures Shigemitsu

Colonel Anil C. Chatterji, who on March 2 was appointed the Foreign Minister of the Provisional Government of Free India, dispatched the following greeting recently to Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu:

"Assuming the post of the Foreign Minister, I beg to express to Your Excellency my sincere respects. The firm determination of the Japanese people and the great fighting spirit of the Japanese Forces throw a glorious and permanent light on the history of humanity, and have deeply impressed those who believe in justice, freedom and reciprocity which are the bases of unity and friendship among all peoples of East Asia.

"Hereby I wish to declare that the Indians residing in East Asia and the Provisional Government of Azad Hind have firm determination to continue fighting, with firm faith in complete victory and independence for India."

ENEMY POWERS CONFER

F.I.C. Matters Probed by U.S., Britain, De Gaulle Regime

Domei

STOCKHOLM, March 14.—The authorities of the United States, Britain, and the De Gaulle regime are reported to be consulting on matters pertaining to the present situation in French Indo-China. In this connection, today's Reuter dispatch from London reveals the fact that a military representative of the De Gaulle regime has been participating in the talks taking place between the United States and British authorities.

Meanwhile, British Government quarters are reported to have commented that the conversations going on among the three nations are more of a military than political nature.

Nippon Times
Published by The Nippon Times, Ltd.

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Furikae No. Tokyo 64848.

BRANCH OFFICES:
OSAKA: Dojima Bldg. Tel. Kita 1770.
KOBE: 65, Naniwa-machi, Kobe-ku. Tel. Sannomiya 3970-7.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One month, ¥6.00; six months, ¥[illegible]; one year, ¥[illegible]. Postage free to all parts of the Japanese Empire, Manchoukuo, China and the Southern Regions. For foreign countries, postage, ¥1.50 per month extra. All subscriptions are payable in advance.

Publisher and Printer:
SHOICHI KAWAMURA

TOKYO, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1945

Cambodia's Independence

Closely following the action of the King of Annam, the King of Cambodia has likewise declared the independence of his country from French rule. This action is perfectly logical and was to have been expected, for the position of Cambodia is identical with that of Annam. The statement issued by the Government of Cambodia simultaneously with the King's proclamation of independence sets forth most succinctly the compelling reason for the action, a reason against which there can be no possible refutation. That reason is: Since under the conditions which have come to prevail there is no disposition nor ability on the part of the French authorities to afford Cambodia any protection, Cambodia recognizes no need for the continuation of the French protectorate over that country.

Since the reason for the French protectorate, namely protection, has ceased to exist, it is but natural that the protectorate should be dissolved. Cambodia has accordingly denounced the Treaty of 1863 by which that country was brought under French rule, and has declared itself to be a fully independent and sovereign nation. This action will enable Cambodia to take proper measures for its own defense against the hostile forces that are now threatening imminent invasion. It will be able to cooperate now without interference with Japan, which is the only country which is ready and able to extend effective aid in the defense of the countries of East Asia.

Cambodia's declaration of independence is not motivated by the military exigencies of the moment alone, however. There are fundamental underlying reasons as well. Cambodia was formerly a proud and glorious independent nation with a brilliant indigenous cultural life. It was forcibly brought under French control through aggressive military might and unprincipled political machinations. Justice and historical destiny decree that Cambodia's rightful traditional status should be restored. The restoration of Cambodia's independence has only rectified a situation which needed to be rectified, and it fulfils the ardent aspirations of the people of that country.

In resuming its status as an independent nation, Cambodia naturally throws off the yoke of foreign influence and re-asserts its traditional Asiatic character. It is but natural that Cambodia finds itself at one in spirit with the other independent nations of this region who are united in the joint endeavor to construct a Greater East Asia free from foreign domination. Cambodia will be a welcome addition to this growing fellowship of kindred nations who are cooperating so heartily for their mutual well-being and protection.

Japan, consistent with her policy of helping all nations and all peoples to attain each their proper place in the world, as explicitly set forth in the Joint Declaration of the Greater East Asiatic Nations to which she adheres, congratulates Cambodia most heartily on the regaining of independence. Japan cannot but be most gratified that her policy of aiding in the liberation of all the oppressed peoples of Asia is continuing to bring forth such impressive results, and Cambodia can rest assured that Japan will extend every possible aid and cooperation to facilitate the defense of the country and the permanent regeneration of its own national life.

Racial Intolerance in South Africa

The Conference on Commonwealth Relations which was recently called at London to discuss the question of racial discrimination in South Africa, British Columbia, and elsewhere in the British Empire was a stultifying farce. That was because the rectification of the gross racial injustices in the British possessions was not one of the objects of this conference. The meeting was nothing more than a noisy propaganda fanfare to attract the attention of the credulous to the seeming interest which the British pharisaically profess for the weal of the non-white peoples under their control.

That the British utilized this conference for no other objective than as a propaganda demonstration is borne out by the fact that no concrete proposals were advanced by the British Commonwealth delegates to remove the existing racial barriers in the British Empire. Sir M. Zufrullah Khan, leader of the Indian delegation from South Africa, bluntly expressed the resentment of the Indian people toward the hypocrisy of the British rulers when he stated that, unless visible steps are taken to put an end to the inequalities from which the Indians are at present suffering, the Commonwealth may one day split. Sir Maharaj Singh, deputy leader of the Indian delegation, went one step further in indicating the intense bitterness of the oppressed Indian people. He warned that there was a feeling among the Indian people in South Africa that they should cooperate with the African Negroes to achieve in common the rights for which they are fighting.

It is apparent from these remarks of the Indian delegates that there is a seething undercurrent of racial disaffection in South Africa today. That disaffection has been intensified by the British denial to accord the Indian people equality of franchise, the right to acquire properties in Transvaal, Orange Free State, and Natal, as well as to migrate from one province to another. How unjust is the British treatment of the Indian people in South Africa is evident from the fact that Britain, after having lured the Indians to South Africa to work for them as laborers, has not allowed them to be assimilated or to be placed on a level of full citizens.

That the British should have shown no more than a superficial interest in the racial problems of the British Empire at the recent conference was not unexpected. The studied omission of the subject of racial equality from the Atlantic Charter as well as the manner in which the Anglo-American countries summarily dismissed at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference Chungking's proposal for the abolition of racial discrimination are clear evidences of the Anglo-American intention to continue their policy of exploitation of the colored races.

The hypocritical British conduct at the Commonwealth Conference should convince once and for all the Indian peoples not only in South Africa but also in India that they can never achieve racial equality under British rule. The abolition of racial discrimination is not one of the war aims of the Anglo-American countries. It is, therefore, futile to ask these imperialistic nations to recognize the principle of racial equality, for Anglo-American imperialism presupposes the existence of inequality between the white and non-white races. It is for this reason that Anglo-American imperialism must be crushed if the world is to enjoy peace based on equity.

A Year Ago Today

March 16, 1944

In the course of mopping-up operations in the vicinity of Chukia, about 20 kilometers south of Pingtu, Shantung Province, our Expeditionary Unit, in concert with the Peace Preservation Corps of the National Government of China, completely routed Chinese Communist remnants belonging to the 8th Route Army, of about 300 strong after a two-hour battle at dawn. In this encounter, 50 enemy troops were taken prisoner. In addition 1 Czech light machine-gun, rifles, 61 hand grenades as well as large quantities of other war materials and ammunition were seized by our Units.

• • •

Unable to check a vigorous attack of the Imperial Japanese Forces, the enemy troops at Tonzan eventually began to flee in the morning, while the main force of the British-Indian army in Tidim, losing their fighting spirit, commenced a general retreat in the afternoon.

BASIS FOR ASIATIC RACIAL UNITY

Moral Justice Must Be Guide for All Political, Economic Policies

By UMEJIRO SAITANI
(From Fukko Asia)

The current world conflict is obviously entering its last decisive stage. There is certainly no "hold on a minute" in the onrush of this whirlpool.

What we must always keep in mind is that while we are pushing the War of Greater East Asia in the best way we know how, it is rather hard for us to grasp the true meaning of the lessons which are being presented to us at this stage of the war. There is no use in trying to get up any postwar measures, political, economic or military. It would be just waste of energy. The only secret, therefore, lies in turning into practise the various lessons we are learning in this war, so that we might always maintain our superior position in this war as a prerequisite to winning our final victory.

In this connection, what we must note is the fact that our enemy nations are not only superior from the standpoint of material resources but also experienced in war. Nothing is more dangerous for us than to think that our enemies are a race of people who rely only on their material power. The fact that they went into the First World War as principal belligerents makes them fully realize what this all-out conflict means and, that in the military, political as well as economic spheres. In fact, when they entered the current war, it can be presumed that they entered with full understanding of the lessons they learned in the other war.

But it is different with the Japanese in that although we joined in the other war our position was no more than that of a bystander. So we are on that score considerably handicapped in pushing this war as a principal participant. Even if our people may understand theoretically what modern war means, they are unable to comprehend its actual implications. Only when the real devastation of war approached Japan Proper did they begin to feel the force of an all-out modern war. As a result, a new realization has dawned upon them even in the field of Asiatic politics, a sort of a political reawakening regarding our relations with the rest of the Asiatics involved in the war.

Naturally there has come up the question of Asia's racial policy. We must work out Asiatic political ideals toward the achievement of racial unity.

Must Attain Racial Unity

In this sense, what our racial policy aims at is quite clear in a general way. It is clear that in order to win this War of Greater East Asia we must attain racial unity to complement our fighting power, while indirectly we must aim at building up our common prosperity sphere. But it is out of the question to expect that we can achieve racial unity in the forge of war: we must make clear the object and meaning of the war. In other words, we must be more concrete in the presentation of our views and in the execution of our acts.

What is racial unity? The mere conglomeration of the Asiatic races in geographical propinquity does not mean racial unity. It must be more fundamental than that; it is in the betterment of their social condition itself, as has been pointed out by many noted scholars. And it goes without saying that as one of such fundamental conditions the liberation of the Asiatics must be attained, which is the objective of this war.

No one will dispute the need of East Asia that it must be completely freed from the grip of Anglo-American imperialism which springs from their monetary and materialistic power. It would not suffice, however, to gain political freedom only. We must set up a concrete political and economic policy which can be translated into deeds.

But what is the concrete political and economic policy? It lies in our efforts toward the reconstruction of their social and economic structures, a sort of complete modernization, that has been put off due to the long-standing Anglo-American influence in Asia. As is well known, what the Anglo-Americans have done in the past was to keep the East Asiatic countries in a state of semi-feudalism, thus gaining their control over the natives, and consequently impeding the latter's independent progress. It was their idea that as long as they could keep the Asiatics in such a state, their domination of Asia would be assured, and as long as their control was certain they could protect their interests and advance their ambitious designs. So after all, it would have been against their traditional policy to see the national progress of the Asiatics, a long cherished ambition of the Asiatics.

The task that lies before us is live up to our promise by completely liberating them from Anglo-American evils, so that they may render their hearty cooperation toward our war efforts.

Asking for mere cooperation from them would not suffice, for it will not last long. For example, in the Spanish-American War the Filipinos fought with the Americans against the Spaniards because they were induced to believe that their freedom would come after the war. But they were duped. When after the war the victorious Americans revealed their intention of ruling the Philippines as before, the natives turned against them in armed revolt. There are many similar instances in history, as, in fact, it is being repeated today. It looks that the longer this fight in the Philippines lasts the harder will become the natives' feeling against their former master and the more they will trust in the Japanese leadership.

So the crux of the whole situation seems to lie in this: The redress of their grievances; improvement in their social and economic conditions; and the application of the principle of moral justice.

DUMBARTON OAKS PROPOSALS

By JAPONICUS

II

Another remarkable feature of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals is a "grand design" to establish a regime of permanent and universal dictatorship of Great Powers now allied in war.

Under the League Covenant, while the composition of the Assembly was conceived of in egalitarian terms, the composition of the Council was marked by realism reminding one of the Concert of Europe. However, it was flexible. The Council might and actually did, with the approval of the Assembly, increase the number of permanent members. The number of non-permanent members could be and actually was increased by the Council with like approval, and the term of office and conditions of re-eligibility could be fixed by a two-thirds majority of the Assembly, which could create a new status for a member within the Council by declaring him as immediately re-eligible. In the present Proposals the number of permanent and of non-permanent members of the Security Council is not susceptible of any increase, unless indeed an arduous procedure of charter amendment is duly complied with. The term of office of non-permanent members is fixed at two years and no non-permanent member is to be immediately re-eligible. The League Covenant provided, further, for ad hoc representation of a member not represented in the Council, when matters specially affecting his interests are discussed at its meeting, and an ad hoc representative could sit as a member with a right to vote. While the Proposals provide in such cases for the "participation" of such a member "in the discussion" of such matters, it seems that no right to vote is to be granted. The above provisions go to indicate that the status of the permanent members and their control of the Security Council is designed to be permanently assured.

The general principle of the League Covenant was that they matter within the sphere of action of the League or affecting the peace of the world was within the competence both of the Assembly and the Council with certain minor exceptions. And in point of fact weighty international political questions were dealt with both by the Assembly and the Council.

In the present Proposals the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security is to be vested in the Security Council. The General Assembly has the right to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security and to discuss any question relating thereto brought before it by any member or members or by the Security Council, and also to make recommendations with regard to any such principles or questions. However, the power and dignity of the Security Council is effectively guaranteed by two provisions, viz.: (1) Any such question on which action is necessary should be referred to the Security Council by the General Assembly either before or after discussion. (2) the General Assembly should not on its own initiative make recommendations on any matter relating to the maintenance of international peace and security which is being dealt with by the Security Council. In other words, the General Assembly is to be reduced to a debating society, and even in such modest capacity is not to embarass the august Council by making inconvenient recommendations during the latter's activities.

The primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security placed on the Security Council would not assure the supremacy of the Five Great Powers permanently represented on the Council, if the unanimity principle as to voting is adopted as under the League Covenant. The matter of voting was left blank in the Proposals. As a result of the Crimea Conference the Big Three came to an agreement on voting procedure which was published on March 5.

Decisions on procedural matters only are to be made by an affirmative vote of seven councillors, and decisions on all other matters are to be made by an affirmative vote of seven members including the concurring votes of the permanent members. A party to a dispute is to abstain from voting only when decisions are to be made on preliminary questions such as whether a matter should be investigated, whether a dispute or a situation is of such a nature that its continuance is likely to threaten the peace, whether the Council should call on the parties to settle a dispute by means of their own choice, whether, if the dispute is referred to the Council, a recommendation should be made as to methods and procedures of settlement, whether the Council should make such recommendation as before the dispute is referred to it, whether the legal aspect of the dispute should be referred to the court for advice, whether a regional agency should be asked to concern itself with the dispute, and whether the dispute should be referred to the General Assembly. When the existence of a threat or breach of the peace is to be determined or the use of force or other enforcement measures are to be decided, unanimous affirmative votes of the permanent members including the party in dispute are required. For such matters as the approval of an agreement for supply of armed forces, the regulation of armament, the suspension and expulsion of a member and the admission of new members, unanimous agreement of the permanent members is necessary.

This means except as to procedural matters, and as to preliminary questions in which a permanent member is a party to a dispute, the Five Great Powers, supposing that France becomes a permanent member, can always prevail provided that they can persuade only two out of the six non-permanent members to join their side.

This means also that through a right to veto any decision of the Council on military or other enforcement measures against themselves, the status of the sovereign immunity of Great Powers is firmly established and the principle of equality of all "peace-loving states" ruthlessly disregarded. If you say that sovereign equality of all peace-loving states, great and small, is left intact, you can as well argue that the maxim "The King can do no wrong" expresses the principle of equality between the King and his subjects.

A decision of the Security Council is not in the nature of a recommendation, as under the League Covenant, which is left to the sovereign discretion of its members to follow or ignore. All the members of the organization are to obligate themselves to accept decisions and to carry them out. The Council under the League Covenant was essentially a conciliar and mediatory body and even in cases where military sanctions were recommended by the Council, sovereign liberty of action was reserved for each member state. On the contrary, the Security Council behaves as a sovereign body invested with a right to command the minor states, whenever the Council determines that a threat of war exists and the latter, including medium-sized powers like Brazil, Canada and the Netherlands are relegated to the servile function of carrying out its commands.

This universal dictatorship of Great Powers, like all dictatorships, is to be established by a blank delegation of power. The members of the organization are to confer on the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and are to agree that in carrying out its duties it should act on their behalf, and they are to obligate themselves to accept and carry out its decisions whatever they may be. In discharging these duties the Security Council should, it is said, act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the organization. The Great Powers are, however, self-constituted permanent members, who cannot be ousted even in the event of an abusive exercise of their power. Expulsion by a two-thirds majority of the Assembly would require the recommendation of the Security Council requiring the unanimous agreement of the permanent members, and the adoption of a charter amendment regarding the organization of the Council by a two-thirds majority of the Assembly would not come into force without the ratification by the Great Powers themselves.

Dictatorship may signify efficiency and has been found useful by every nation in time of national emergency. With all its dangers and evils, it may function well, so long as the dictator is a wise and patriotic statesman who can dedicate himself to the welfare of his nation. The universal dictatorship of Great Powers would be tolerable provided that they behave without any national prejudices and are prepared to sacrifice their own interests for the benefit of all. Minor Powers may indeed be tempted or compelled for some reason or other to sacrifice their sovereignties to accept this universal dictatorship. But it is significant that fears have already been expressed on this point by the Dutch and the Canadians, and that the French are required to champion the cause of small powers. In view of the contemporary psychology of nations it is extremely doubtful whether such a dictatorial rule can function permanently without a revolt or revolution.

Instead of being a loose confederation like the defunct League, the "United Nation" is designed to be a closer federation. It is to be noted that no provision exists for withdrawal. Its political principle is the dictatorship of the Security Council equipped with a Military Staff and with armed forces at its disposal. The federation would function so long as the Great Powers act in perfect unison and harmony despite the fact that it means an imposition of drab uniformity on humanity, and the suppression of nationalistic aspirations of minor nations, especially of those vigorous medium-sized states who may try to compete with the Great Powers. If, on the other hand, the nationalism or imperialism of Great Powers with all their mutual suspicions and antagonisms is to continue, the organization will be converted into a bare facade of the Temple of Peace behind which the ugly game of machtpolitik will be staged which will finally lead to World War III, and to the collapse of the federation.

The organization is naturally fraught with dangers for the sovereign liberty of minor nations. The charter reminds one of Hobbes' social contract and his Leviation. The minor states make a social contract whereby they agree to sacrifice their sovereign liberty and unconditionally to obey the behests of the absolute sovereigns in order to enjoy the blessings of peace and security. The Leviathan, however, is capable of swallowing up the minor nations. They may find that it was an insurance policy in which the amount of premium far exceeded the sum insured.

III

Lord Bryce once said: "The prospect of improving the relations of states and peoples to one another depends ultimately upon the possibility of improving human nature itself . . can it be raised to and sustained at a higher level than it has yet attained."

In envisaging this "Grand Design"—certainly grander than Sully's—Roosevelt and others associated with him may, for aught we know, be motivated by good intentions with which, however, according to Dr. Johnson, Hell is paved. We are sorry to state that human nature has not much improved in the West since the age of the Renaissance. Take for instance, warnings sounded by Eastern and Western moralists against the humiliation of an adversary. Compare the punitive and retributive measures of the treaties of Versailles, St. Germain-en-Laye, Trianon, Neuilly and Sevres of 1919 and 1920 with those of Paris and Vienna of 1815. During the Napoleonic War which continued for more than twenty years a considerable part of Continental Europe was invaded by French armies. But not only were the French boundaries practically left unimpaired but France was allowed to resume her prominent position in the councils of Europe. Looking further back to the Peace of Westphalia concluded at the end of the Thirty Years' War which ended in 1648, do we not find not only a declaration that there should be a "Christian and Universal Peace, perpetual true and sincere amity," but a special provision that there should be "a Perpetual Oblivion, Amnesty and Pardon?" When we come back to the present day and scrutinize the psychology of Roosevelt and other Anti-Axis statesmen and publicists revealed in their statements regarding the so-called disposition of their enemy countries in the event of their alleged victory, we have to pronounce that during the past centuries human nature has rather deteriorated than otherwise. Against such psychological and moral condition of the Anti-Axis nations and their leaders, we are sure that the "Grand Design" they conceive paves the way not to Grand Harmony but to Grand Disaster.

So far we have delineated the general characteristics of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals. Let us briefly summarize our criticisms on the Proposals.

1. The punitive conception of peace must definitely be relinquished. Western statesmen should endeavor to revive the spirit of perpetual oblivion embodied in the Peace of Westphalia, instead of continuing to pin their faith on the transcendent philosophy of the Versailles Settlement. The title, "The United Nations," will have to be amended, and the self-praising phrase "peace-loving states" should be erased. The spirit of vengeance and grab vis-a-vis the enemy countries concealed behind the Transitional Arrangements under Chapter XII must be buried.

2. In view of the diversity of the political conditions and conceptions which actually prevail in various regions of the World, the idea of Regional Arrangements for the maintenance of peace is sound. Failure to provide for and promote regional arrangements for peace was one of the basic defects of the old League. Its jealous pretensions to universalism led to a tendency for the Geneva organization to be drawn into regional disputes which could have better been solved regionally. International disputes should, if possible, be moved regionally without outside interference. Besides regional arrangements for the maintenance of peace, a world-wide mechanism is necessary for dealing with cases not susceptible of regional solution. The regional organization, however, should generally be coordinate with, not subordinate, as in the Proposals to the central organization. Further, the methods of dealing with disputes need not be universally standardized; they may vary according to the conditions and mores of each region. In the settlement of a dispute arising in a family consisting of only some 70 nations, it seems that on the whole flexible conciliatory methods are, just as in the settlement of domestic disputes, preferable to stiff judicial methods.

3. The idea of criminal sanctions, especially of military sanctions, for the prevention or restoration of peace should be eliminated within the regional as well as world-wide organizations. It has been said that wars would cease to exist the moment people ceased to resort to revolutions. Whatever organization one may set up, it is idyllic to expect that we can thereby prevent all wars for eternity. The important thing is rather to localize them. A joint punitive war will enlarge the sphere of conflicts and in the case of a world organization there is the danger that every war will be converted into a world war.

4. The Proposals while paying lip service to general disarmament are half-hearted in zeal. This is in perfect harmony with their policy of maintaining international peace by armed force. Practically competition in armaments especially by the Great Powers will be the result. It is submitted that the Great Powers should take the bold initiative radically to reduce their armaments in such a manner as to lead other nations to do likewise.

5. The principle of dictatorship both within the regional as well as world organizations should be rejected. The Great Powers should be satisfied with the de facto influence which they would naturally enjoy in the councils of nations. Any coercive system by which Great Powers impose their will on minor nations is not a system conducive to international peace.

6. No provision similar to Article 19 of the Covenant of the League of Nations is found in the Proposals. It would be a mistake, however, to conclude therefrom that the doctrine of peaceful change has been disregarded in favor of the maintenance of the status quo. In this connection absence in the Proposals of any provision similar to Article 10 of the Covenant dealing with the preservation of territorial integrity and political independence must also be noted. In the light of the dictatorial power vested in the Council the danger does not consist in the maintenance of the status quo, but a contrary one. The territorial integrity and political independence of minor nations would be too much at the mercy of the all-powerful Council and may be too easily endangered by measures taken by the Council in the name of international peace and security. A less arbitrary system of peaceful change should be established.

7. The idea of an Economic and Social Council as mentioned in the Proposals is a sound one. It has been truly said that economically the world is too small, while politically it is too large. The Council can do really useful work in promoting the smooth functioning of a world-wide exchange of commodities which will inure to the welfare of all nations. Moreover, national economic policies formulated and pursued with an eye to the monopoly of trade and natural resources will give rise to severe international rivalries, and may threaten the economic life of other nations who will be driven to take defensive measures. Economic conflicts among nations constitute the major causes of war. If a body like an Economic and Social Council succeeded in persuading nations to formulate their policies as "to further the enjoyment by all states, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access on equal terms to the trade and raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity," they would remove nine-tenths of the causes of war. The above passage quoted from the Atlantic Charter by which Roosevelt and Churchill are in no mood to abide is in perfect accord with the Fifth Clause of our Greater East Asia Joint Declaration.

It may be added that besides the economic and social commissions which are particularly mentioned in the Proposals, a cultural commission should be set up to work out practical measures for the promotion of cultural exchange between nations with a view to the final elimination of racial and national prejudices and discriminations. For a mental and spiritual atmosphere of mutual understanding and confidence among nations is the prerequisite for realizing true international collaboration for the maintenance of peace and the acceleration of human progress.

(End)

Aeronautic Fowl

"Say," said the woman customer over the telephone, "The next time I order chicken, don't send me any more airplane fowl." "What do you mean—airplane fowl?," asked the butcher. "You know what I mean: All wings and machinery and no body."

PRESS COMMENTS

Thursday, March 15

FINANCE MINISTRY'S LEAD IN SWITCH-OVER

MAINICHI—The most urgent matter under the jurisdiction of the Munitions Ministry at present is the dispersal of important munitions plants. However, there are now strong demands for the appointment of a supreme executive official to be in sole charge of such a dispersal. We were under the belief that by now complete plans for dispersion would have been ready, but even in the unfortunate case that these plans are not yet ready, as there is a huge Ministry already in special charge of such duties, there should be no need for the appointment of another special executive nor for a new Government Office for this purpose.

The plan for the simplification and strengthening of the structure and functioning of Government offices which was adopted by the Cabinet Council on March 2 has been first put into practice by the Finance Ministry. The new measure proposes the decrease of the number of sections in its own Ministry by one-third, and the cutting down of the personnel by one-half. When measures are carried as far as this, then the simplification of official business should this time materialize. That there are too many officials, is a serious detriment in the simplification of the administration. However, as the number on the personnel is cut down, it becomes impossible to adhere to the conventional method of carrying on the work. We cannot yet feel completely at ease in regard to Finance Ministry's plan. If the reform in the business procedure fails to respond to the decrease in personnel, then a delay in the execution of duties in proportion to the decrease in personnel cannot be avoided.

Success or failure of the reform will depend on how thoroughly the mandating of authority from the central authorities to the local authorities can be carried out. We believe that a resolute mandating of authority should be enforced. This would be the best way to achieve the hoped-for simplification. The Finance Ministry this time was merely the first announcer of the plan drafted in response to an earlier Cabinet decision. We hope this positive programs going on even beyond the Finance Ministry's plan in point of resolve will be effected also by other ministries at once!

Also the proposal that staff officials should take up residence within the Government offices or at a close distance thereto is very good indeed. It is right that they should disperse their family members so as to be able to concentrate all their efforts on their official duties without anxiety about them. On this point we would like to see the Finance Ministry set an example to the other ministries in actual enforcement.

A LESSON FOR THE HOME FRONT

MAINICHI—Vice-Admiral Onishi, Supreme Commander of the Navy Air Units in the Philippines area, has given certain instructions to members of the Special Attack Corps and ground crews at an air base on the foremost fighting line. In reading these instructions, one cannot help being deeply struck in learning how the officers and men at the front are living, and dying, in a noble spirit. A careful reading makes us feel that these instructions are not merely addressed to the officers and men at the front, but are at the same time a valuable admonition to us on the home front.

Today, when the war has reached the stage when we must be prepared for an enemy landing, an efficient and powerful domestic structure, from top to bottom, along with an unbudging spirit on the part of the people is necessary. The attitude and spirit of the Shimpu Special Attack Corps should be taken as the supreme model by all of us. We have frequently been told that we should "rise in the spirit of the Special Attack Corps," but while the field of battle was still far away, the general frame of mind was still lacking in sufficient tension for concerted action in response to that demand. Today, the situation has changed. The mainland too has become a battlefield. Each of us must make the supreme effort through actions and spirit like those of the Special Attack Corps.

Another report reveals the fact that young and old, men and women, alike among the Japanese residents of Luzon are working in the fields in the midst of the flames of war, thus helping in the foodstuff production increase. With every handful of rice and every bit of vegetable thus produced, the precious fighting power of the officers and men fighting on that island is bolstered. These are examples for us to follow.

Big Income

The reporter began to ask his questions.

"And would you like to tell me what made you a multi-millionaire?" he asked.

The terribly rich man looked pensive.

"I think you can say my wife did," he replied at length.

"I see, her loyal help . . . ."

"No, no. I was simply curious to know if there was any income she couldn't live beyond."